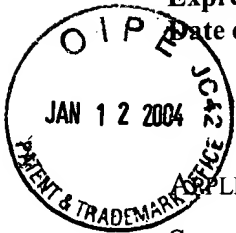


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Ronald A. Faris

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/743,544

EXAMINER: Joseph T. Voitach

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Boston, Massachusetts

January 12, 2004

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

This Response and Amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action (Paper No. 11) mailed July 10, 2003 in the above-identified patent application. With a three-month extension, these documents are due on or before January 12, 2004 (January 10, 2004 being a Saturday). A Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time is submitted herewith, along with the appropriate fee. Applicant believes no additional fees are due in connection with this filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 21486-024NATL.

Applicant submits this paper in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114 and the required fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e). This paper constitutes a proper submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c).

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

An Appendix including the amended drawing figures is attached following page 11 of this paper.